

## **OVERVIEW: SURVEY REGARDING BEER PONG & OTHER TABLE GAMES IN THE UNIVERSITY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD**

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Boulder recently conducted a survey to gather and evaluate views that residents in the University Hill neighborhood have about beer pong and other table games that are sometimes played outside. Concerns about beer pong/table games surfaced in recent conversations between residents and city staff, feedback neighbors provided to one council member, and during a forum that was designed to bring long-term residents and student renters together for conversation and relationship-building. The survey is one tool the city is using as it tries to collaborate with all interested community members to address these concerns.

### **SURVEY OUTREACH**

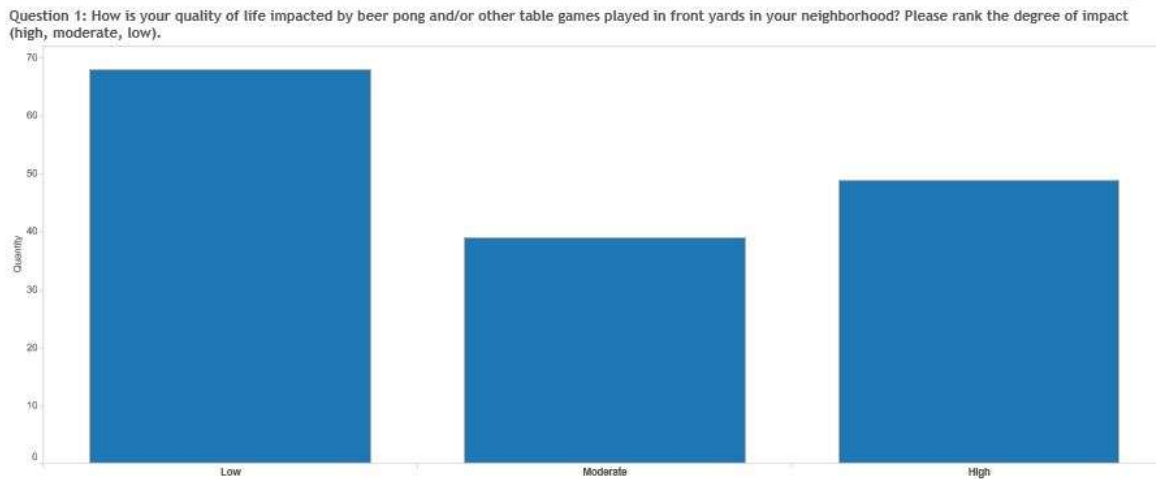
With any survey, it was important this get to the right people. The city used a variety of methods to publicize this feedback opportunity:

- University Hill Neighborhood Association (UHNA) listserv. UHNA sent at least two reminders to its membership.
- Nextdoor.com , with targeted delivery to the impacted neighborhood
- Hand-delivered flyers to residents of the following blocks, approximately 500 households:
  - 9<sup>th</sup> from Aurora to Baseline
  - Lincoln Place from College to Baseline
  - 10<sup>th</sup> from College to Baseline
  - 11<sup>th</sup> from Euclid to Baseline
  - 12<sup>th</sup> from Euclid to Baseline
  - 13<sup>th</sup> from Aurora to Baseline
  - 14<sup>th</sup> from Aurora to Baseline
  - 15<sup>th</sup> from Aurora to Baseline

### **NUMBER OF RESPONSES**

- 225 survey responses were received.
- Sixty-nine of the 225 total responses were excluded from the analysis presented below, leaving a tally of 156 completed survey responses. The city removed these surveys because 64 of them came from two addresses (both fraternity houses); since all 64 responses provided similar or identical feedback, the city included one per household. Of the remaining five responses that were removed, four came from one address (the city counted all four as one response) and one came from an address in Lakewood (and it was unclear what the respondent's connection was to Boulder or the University Hill

neighborhood). The city felt that removing these 69 responses provided a more balanced and fair overview of the survey results.



## BEER PONG-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

- Of the respondents, 44 percent said the table games had a “low” impact on their day-to-day lives, 31 percent said they had a “high” impact, and 25 percent said “moderate.”
- The biggest concern of those who indicated the impact was high or moderate was resulting trash. Others noted that they would like to see the tables put away between uses, while many said that the loud noise and profanity were the biggest concerns.
- Several respondents indicated that moving the table games to the backyard would solve their concerns.
- Many people noted that couches and indoor furniture currently are restricted from front yards and questioned why this ordinance did not include the tables related to these games.
- Many people, no matter the level of impact they perceived, suggested that 1) landlords be held more accountable for the disrepair of the properties; and 2) students and community members try to bridge any existing divide with improved communication.

## SUMMARY FEEDBACK ABOUT OVERALL NUISANCE ISSUES

- Regardless of the level of impact respondents perceived, many residents shared concerns about associated trash. For example, a “low impact” respondent noted: “I am not bothered by people playing the game, however I do get irritated walking to work during the week and going by heaps of trash on and around the tables on a regular basis.”
- Another concern that was raised often was noise levels. A large number of respondents indicated that the table game participants often play music at a loud level, conduct conversations at a high volume, often use a great deal of profanity, and at times, are visually inebriated. Many respondents indicated that this high level of noise often goes on for much of the day and into the late evening. A “high impact” respondent noted: “The yelling of vulgar and foul language that can be heard a block away, the example it sets for our children, the utter disrespect it shows is what bothers us the most. The game and the

kids enjoying themselves is not the issue, for the first half hour they are fine. But they quickly become drunk, then the problems start.”

- Also of concern for respondents was the issue of tables being left out in front yards while games are not being played, along with the disrepair of the yard and lawn surrounding the table. While several respondents noted that the more “artful” tables are not an issue and even positive, most pointed to the rundown state of many tables. A “moderate impact” respondent noted: “We often enjoy walking to the Hill as a family to get breakfast, on our way to the Farmers Market, or to get a cup of coffee. The tables are very trashy and can easily be put in the backyards of houses. I am not sure why it's allowed at all.”
- A fair number of respondents (more than 30) indicated that code violations (e.g., trash, noise, over-occupancy) should be enforced consistently throughout the year. One commenter said: “This wouldn't even be an issue if the city would enforce the rules and regulations on the books.”
- Along these lines, many comments suggested that issuing tickets would be the most effective way to curb the issues they associated with table games.
- Many respondents noted that landlords should be held responsible or at the very least become more engaged with the actions of their tenants and the resulting issues related to their property.
- Several respondents expressed concern that noise and trash in the University Hill area were negatively impacting their home values.
- Some comments indicated that residents appreciate how eclectic the neighborhood is and that students are a welcome addition, but at least one resident said he/she feels like “students have taken over and the rest of us need to get ear plugs and close our windows.”
- One comment addressed specifics: “There are plenty of municipal violations happening at these properties which could be prosecuted if the beer pong tables themselves are not illegal. Use them as indicators of properties that need follow up on weeds (BRC 6-2-3), parking, and occupancy violations. By the way, litter and trash cannot accumulate with impunity, there ARE laws against that (BRC 6-3-3). At a minimum, please enforce that ordinance.”

Question 2: For the following questions, please rate the level of stars (1-5) to which each element of table games, such as but not limited to beer pong, are an issue. For the scale, consider 1 as being "not at all bothersome," 3 as "moderately offensive or noticeably impactful" and 5 as "this is a major neighborhood issue and has negative impacts."

Sub Question	1: "not at all bothersome"	2	3: "moderately offensive or noticeably impactful"	4	5: "this is a major neighborhood issue and has negative impacts."
The associated trash that is not cleaned up when the game is concluded (e.g., red cups, empty beer cans and bottles, cartons, other trash).	37 30.1%	5 4.1%	3 2.4%	11 8.9%	67 54.5%
The crowds the game attracts.	46 38.7%	2 1.7%	12 10.1%	10 8.4%	49 41.2%
The damage to the lawn that results from standing around the table: bare spots, mud, etc.	45 37.2%	2 1.7%	14 11.6%	7 5.8%	53 43.8%
The noise from the game itself.	29 24.0%	9 7.4%	13 10.7%	16 13.2%	54 44.6%
The overall party scene that the table creates and/or promotes; part of a bigger problem.	43 35.8%	1 0.8%	15 12.5%	4 3.3%	57 47.5%
The tables being left out in the front yard after the game is concluded.	42 35.0%	0 0.0%	17 14.2%	2 1.7%	59 49.2%
The tables themselves are often in a state of disrepair and present like accumulated trash.	33 27.5%	7 5.8%	9 7.5%	13 10.8%	58 48.3%

## MORE DETAILED RESPONSES (edited for spelling)

### *High impact*

"It's simple, play the game like a responsible adult and do so in the backyard. Then, they can elect to leave tables, or whatever the next drinking game contraption may be, outside full time since it is out of sight. ... A majority of the tables look like garbage. If I were to store garbage in my front yard, then the city would give me a citation. Does this mean if I interact with my front yard garbage, that the city can no longer give a citation? This is definitely a gray area which is exploited by part time residents who care more about the 'moment' than they do about their neighborhood."

"The visual drunken behavior and constant obscenities while walking my child around our neighborhood are particularly bothersome. ... Interventions for underage drinking that blatantly occurs during these games."

"They are an eye-sore, the kids are loud when they use them, and I am very uncomfortable walking my child in the neighborhood when I have to walk by the tables (eg walking down to the

Natural History Museum). ... The students choosing to live on the Hill are choosing to live in a multi-age, family community rather than a single demographic offered on campus. I would like to see a change to the perception of what living on the Hill means. Students tell me that the party kids want to live where parties can happen, and right now it is tolerated here. The studious kids live east of campus so they don't have to deal with the parties. I'd like to see a 'rebranding' of the Hill and I'd like to see more CU employees live here. ... Prior to living here, we live in St. Paul, MN, where there are 5 liberal arts colleges within very small space. We lived a short distance from St. Thomas University, where many students live off campus. Never, was there a problem with noise, litter or parking. I would like to see CU take a more active role in working with the community to change the student opinion of the neighborhood to one of more respect as the St Thomas kids do in St. Paul."

"Besides the eyesore of the tables/garbage left out, the biggest impact is the dead lawn/dirt patches that result. I wonder if the homeowners are aware or care?"

"These types of games and activities in and of themselves are harmless but most people buy homes in the expectation that these games and activities will not go on next door."

"This display is such a middle finger to our community. The yelling of vulgar and foul language that can be heard a block away, the example it sets for our children, the utter disrespect it shows is what bothers us the most. The game and the kids enjoying themselves is not the issue, for the first half hour they are fine. But they quickly become drunk, then the problems start. Our children were walking our dogs by 975 15th Street while a male was urinating into the bushes in full view (including his genitals) of the sidewalk and our children. Then the mess is left for days and longer. There are plenty of municipal violations happening at these properties which could be prosecuted if the beer pong tables themselves are not illegal. Use them as indicators of properties that need follow up on weeds (BRC 6-2-3), parking, and occupancy violations. By the way, litter and trash cannot accumulate with impunity, there ARE laws against that (BRC 6-3-3). At a minimum please enforce that ordinance. ... To fellow students: As a CU alum, I am ashamed at the behavior of fellow CU students. Those causing problems and misrepresenting CU are a very small minority of the CU student body. Use your backyard. Act like an adult and show respect to your neighbors."

"This is a huge problem in our part of the Hill. There are houses where every single time we pass by, day or night, at least six dudes are out playing beer pong and drinking and yelling. It makes us feel like we live in a frat house. Yet it's not enough noise to file any sort of police complaint, so it's just this persistent, intractable problem. I really hope you can find a solution! ... Ban the tables outside, just like with indoor furniture."

"Enforce the existing noise, litter, and unrelated parties in one residence ordinances! The city government is not doing its job in these areas."

"Beer pong is usually accompanied by loud music (with speakers facing outward toward the street) and yelling/whooping, etc. One of the issues is that it is mostly an afternoon or early evening activity that is very disruptive to neighbors but is not subject to the 11 p.m. noise

ordinance. As such, neighbors are less willing to call the police because they don't think it can be stopped. While it's nice to think that neighbors should just go next door and ask the students to quiet down or clean up, it can be an intimidating experience and students are not always respectful or considerate when such requests are made. ... Keep the noise level down and be respectful of your neighbors. Be aware that there are families, elderly folks, young professionals, etc. living nearby who are affected by their behavior.”

“I do not want to live in an area that is trashed and noisy, where the students have no respect for their neighbors’ rights. ... This encourages drinking and garbage and an atmosphere of slum like on the Hill. Remember how long it took the city to prohibit couches on the porches which immediately solved the problem of fires and riots on the hill. PLEASE, put an end to the beer pong parties without making it a long drawn out big deal.”

“There are certain areas of the neighborhood where my kids and I cannot walk because I do not want them observing beer pong.”

“Extremely loud music and loud repetitive profanity that often accompanies the games. ... Have the disruptive students clean up their mess, stop shouting obscenities and turn the music down to a reasonable level (i.e., same requirements as nuisance parties except have then apply between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.”

“If couches are banned from being on renters’ lawns, I don't see why beer pong table shouldn't be.”

“We often enjoy walking to the Hill as a family to get breakfast, on our way to the Farmers Market, or to get a cup of coffee. The tables are very trashy and can easily be put in the backyards of houses. I am not sure why it's allowed at all. ... Put them in the backyard, then they can have all the mess they want and not have to clean it up.”

“I know of no other college town where beer pong tables sit in front of the rental properties other than CU Boulder. It is a serious problem for our neighborhood and does not promote an educational or child friendly community. They should play in their backyards ONLY!”

“The beer pong tables generally appear in lawns that are not kept up. It is a very blatant example of a neighbor or landlord not caring about the appearance of their yard, nor the neighborhood.”

“Revise the ‘Couch Ordinance’ to prohibit beer pong and other table games in front yards and establish fines for violations.”

“Thank you for taking the time to ask about this! I moved to the Hill 2 years ago. I can't believe what a low quality of life we have in this otherwise beautiful neighborhood. The level of ‘slum-lording’ that is going on in our community is just very sad. I don't know what the best solution is. Students and high-density living does not need to equal such poor quality of life...Students and high-density are not the problem...Please let's try a little of Bratton's **BROKEN WINDOW** theory... Many of these kids are living in slum-like conditions inside their home - why would

they not treat the outside equally poorly? ... Code enforcement should include such tables, even as it includes sofas on porches ... The kids who behave badly don't seem to be especially likely to change their behavior based on 'education' alone. Fine the LANDLORDS! LANDLORDS need to start to take responsibility for their properties."

"Yard games, public binge drinking, litter, etc in the front yard and out in the open set a tone that does not reflect the true balance of the neighborhood. I believe it would be in the best interest of both the students and the rest of the community to set the bar higher for student behavior. I am happy to live among students in a mixed, eclectic neighborhood, but it feels like the students have taken over and the rest of us have to get ear plugs, close our windows, and hope the next weekend is better. Unfortunately, some students feel they are entitled to behave poorly regardless of where they are, because they are 'just students;' they have been given the message that the rules are different for them. ... I get that college students are usually out on their own for the first time and they are going to respond to the freedom of no parents and no limits. The problem is that there are societal limits for which that they aren't held accountable until they really go well beyond what would be considered acceptable for non-students. Holding them to a lesser standard sends the wrong message and is a disservice to them. Once, a college student, after watching a bear get captured for later euthanization, told me that she didn't think the trash rules applied to college students. Some students really don't think there are rules that apply to them and they certainly don't make a connection to their behavior and the consequences to others."

"It is just a matter of respecting the neighborhood. The students aren't here long term, but this is our home. It is our biggest investment. We don't need to see the trash or hear the f-bomb dropped in front of our kids."

"Sometimes there is loud amplified music. There is always yelling and howling. Beer pong on the porches is also very bothersome. Many of the kids are underage. ... Have student leaders walk around and contact people at beer pong parties and tell them they live in a mixed neighborhood. ... Generally, there are more, but smaller, parties than 15 years ago. This is better than the huge parties of the past. The PD is doing a pretty good job of enforcement. They should keep up their neighborhood patrols on the hill. Bicycle and foot patrols. Three cheers for the BPD."

"We would like to see beer pong taken to the back yards and off the porches and front yards. The mess in the front yards make our neighborhood look like a slum. Thanks for this survey."

"We have 11 children on our block. This 'activity' goes on from about noon through the night. Children are exposed to heavy drinking, foul language, loud music for hours on end and bottles, cups and other trash throughout the 'activity' and into days to follow."

"Are you kidding with this survey and the need to create an 'educational campaign?' The students don't need education as they don't care about their impact - behavior will only be curbed by ordinances prohibiting beer pong tables in front yards. Take it to the backyard or better yet, inside the house. This brings down home values and quality of life for residents. ... Students are temporary residents of this neighborhood and shouldn't be allowed to "take over" a neighborhood

with loud and dirty drinking games. If an ordinance creates tension, so be it. They're not concerned in the least bit around the impact they're having on neighbors and collectively think we should 'move somewhere else if we don't like it.' Seriously? Bad behavior should not take precedence over the people who live, work, and raise their families in these neighborhoods."

"Driving home in the afternoon, it's not uncommon to see 4 or more games in progress between the intersection of University and Broadway and my house. There was a table down the street from our house that I seemed to be in action 24x7. I understand college kids will party and I've been hoping for a while that this was just a fad; apparently not a short-lived fad. But the standing tables, the accumulated trash and groups of 5 or 6 bare-chested guys hanging out drinking beer for hours on end has a negative impact on the quality of life in the neighborhood."

"Tables, games and crowds in the 1000 block of 14th St. interfere with pedestrian access to the Hill commercial area and to the 14th and Broadway underpass to campus. I know older people and parents with young children who hesitate to walk past houses in that block because of the obscenities and rude behavior they will be exposed to."

#### *Moderate impact*

"Discourage rental properties in residential neighborhoods by strictly enforcing occupancy limits and not granting legitimacy to illegal boarding houses (so called 'co-ops')."

"I'm happy to let the students play the game as long as they clean up after themselves. ... This seems relatively easy to enforce -- give the tenants a ticket for leaving trash in the front yard."

"It's OK to play the games if they can be played in a way that respects the neighbors. Keeping the noise down is appreciated. ... I think that its fine to play the games if they can be done in a manner that respects all neighbors."

"Keep the noise and trash down during the game and clean it up COMPLETELY before leaving the scene, day or night. A fence helps a lot when I compare properties."

"It's about being respectful, considerate neighbors! Biggest issue is the drunkenness and loud profanity during the game and trash afterwards. It's not about the tables themselves or the game. ... My biggest issue is trashing of the neighborhood; glass on streets, red cups on lawns, etc. The city has laws to regulate this but the city doesn't do much if anything to enforce it. Why not?!?"

"Police patrols to monitor and enforce ordinances related to public drinking."

"Expectations must be set and there must be consequences if not followed. Landlords should be held accountable for trash and noise if students aren't obliging."

"The only real concern I have is if the games are played late at night and are noisy. However, my experience has been that these are mostly things that are done in the day which really does not



bother me very much. I think there are far more important concerns facing Boulder than beer pong.”

“We do not have ‘tables’ on our block, but as I walk thru the ‘student zone’ to get to Alfalfa’s I notice the tables, plastic cups and trash. Trashy student zone. ... The ‘Hill’ has cleaned up a lot over the last few years. Educating students must be repetitive as they change each semester. But, improvement has occurred. Hopefully it will improve even more.”

“It’s really the same as all student issues: trash, alcohol and noise. If code & noise violations were thoroughly enforced, beer pong wouldn’t be an issue.”

“While I dislike the tables and the mess associated with them, I am against criminalizing them. I think we just need to raise awareness and ask for mutual respect. I’m happy to tolerate them if they will use them responsibly.”

“I am not bothered by people playing the game, however I do get irritated walking to work during the week and going by heaps of trash on and around the tables on a regular basis.”

“I don’t feel like Councilmember Shoemaker is trying to come down on student fun, but perhaps this is an attempt to further improve livable neighborhoods. I would have preferred that he address beer pong table aesthetics and negative behaviors that sometimes come from the activity through the University Hill Neighborhood Association, landlords and the university. This partnership has steadily improved through the years and good things come from people talking openly rather than hearing third hand from the newspaper that there is a problem. I feel students are educated about being good neighbors if they choose to live on the Hill through student government and university ombudsman welcome kits at the beginning of fall semester. One solution could be to ask students to take beer pong tables down and clean up their yards by 12:00 p.m. the following day. There are already interventions in place to address negative behaviors such as excessive noise and underage drinking. Thanks for the survey. I hope you receive input from a variety of residents.”

“I would prefer that table games not be played in front yards at all, but at a minimum they should be cleaned up/taken down when not in use. Leaving them in the front yard makes the neighborhood look trashy.”

“I think these games are alright, so long as the people who play them clean up the messes they make with the game. With that being said, no drunk person wants to clean up a mess, so it’s not an easy situation. The people who play these games need an incentive to clean up after themselves.”

“While not a problem at my current address, the Hill in general is impacted negatively. That said, if enforcement was done re trash and associated nuisance issues were actually done, the problem could be mitigated. Enforcement of too many things isn’t efficiently done.”

“As a current college student living on the Hill (who likes to play beer pong!), even I think that sometimes the tables in the front yard are gross and show a negative impression of students & Boulder itself.”

“I think the owners of these rentals should be held accountable - seriously fined for litter and noise ordinance issues. That and educating the students would be taking care of the problem from both ends.”

“Have landlords take more steps to improve the curb appeal of their rental properties and arrange for professional gardening/maintenance. I think there needs to be education with landlords & tenants that keeping their property in good condition enhances everyday life. Can someone explain why this isn't done?”

#### *Low impact*

“If the city would just enforce the existing litter laws that are on the books the problems associated with Beer Pong would be solved. Creating new laws that won't be enforced, just like the existing laws are not enforced is short sighted and foolish. ... Simply give warnings and tickets for litter left out in the yard where beer pong parties are held.”

“The University needs to construct more student housing which would be rented to students at affordable rates and encourage more students to live on campus. ... We need to decide whether the community needs to be run like an HOA with all the attendant rules and regs which would not permit this kind of activity.”

“The only thing I mind is the trash but that's not just about beer pong. Beer pong is a fact of life around the hill, let's tackle bigger issues please. Maybe managing the vagrants/addicts that loiter/sleep on the sidewalks. My 16 yr old daughter doesn't feel safe walking on the Hill and neither do I. Maybe more trash cans around the Hill?? Some street sweeping on occasion would be nice too. Beer pong tables aren't the problem. The city needs to do a better job cleaning up before we ask the kids to put away their innocuous pong tables.”

“I am a 50 year old father with young kids and I own a home. While I agree that keeping the neighborhood nice encourages people to take care of it, this is not an issue worth addressing. It's just kids having fun and better yet, they play outside. ... Drop this issue, it's simply being too controlling of the students and searching for ways to divide the community. Instead, stop and say hello to the players, get to know some of the students. They are actually not that intimidating and this helps get them out where we can see them and actually interact. Grass grows back.”

“If the residents are not going to use the tables for several days, I would like to see the tables put away.”

“Check to see how many of these properties are owner-occupied and in compliance with zoning and how many are not. Then check to see how many owner-occupied properties that are in compliance with zoning in the same neighborhood have these table set-ups on the premises. This

type of enforcement would very likely do away with the need for a separate ordinance to deal with the tables.”

“Instead of focusing on Beer Pong which is a symptom of lack of enforcement on the Hill, why not attack the real issues that lead to this: noise, drunks, trash, over-occupancy. The City doesn't enforce its ordinances, and in many cases gives illegal, over-occupied rentals and co-ops a pass. Hire more enforcement officers and get rid of your worthless employee who is supposed to investigate over-occupancy but instead thwarts neighbors' pleas for action. Hire some people who take these issues seriously and are dedicated to enforcing ordinances. Furthermore, stop wasting taxpayer funds on your useless studies and experiments. Instead concentrate on fixing problems instead of creating more problems. Citizens of Boulder are fed-up with City Administration, a majority of City Council people. Wake up!!!”

“While I do think cleaning up trash from front yards is important for the neighborhood, I fear that attacking "beer pong tables" gives the wrong impression that we're a bunch of killjoys on the Hill. I enjoy seeing young people having fun together outside.”

“Get players and non-players talking to each other in setting in which everyone is comfortable and is a safe environment for dialogue.”

“I'm wondering why the city doesn't enforce over occupancy with illegal rental coops. Why is it that council member shoemaker is advocating for continued illegal over occupancy in the low density parts of the neighborhood while he has sold his house and moved to another neighborhood? Seems very strange to me.”

“People have a right to recreate in their yard. It seems trash and noise ordinances could be used to address most of these concerns.”

“This issue does not affect us. People in our neighborhood play plenty of games, in their yards (front & back), on their drive ways, on the street and it doesn't bother us. What does bother us is when there are too many people living in one house, or a higher density of apartments nearby and the quantity of people and cars and resulting traffic overcomes the quality of life for those in the neighborhood. The City should do more to enforce occupancy limits in residential low-density neighborhoods and ban all coops in such neighborhoods.”

“Open communication between neighbors in the moment, not just passive suggestions or written statements after the fact. Students WILL respond if people respectfully approach them.”

“Students are now spending more time outside of their apartment in a friendly setting, allowing the possibility to get to know neighbors.”

“Don't take away yard games. This is a town mostly made up of college students, this is how they make connections and have fun. The hill is known for its college scene and most of the owners on the hill seem to understand that. The college students should be more respectful of their mess but the games should stay. Imagine what trouble they will get into if you take away

their yard games. ... The trash that is created during the games should be cleaned up but the games should still be allowed to proceed in the front lawn as long as the renters/owners abide by a rule of cleaning up after themselves.”

“The best way to ease tension would be for those against "table games" to leave the neighborhood. It is well known that "The Hill" consists of mostly college students. Neighbors whom do not want to deal with partying/table games should move somewhere else.”

“As long as the beer cans are thrown away, don't see a problem. The tables are often painted, built, and decorated by students and adds flare to the neighborhood.”

“I believe it is our right as rent paying tenants to do as we please with our property, and (no offense intended) it is no business of our neighbors what we choose to do with our time. For the record, I believe our neighbors should be able to do whatever they want within legal parameters with their property as well.”

“Trash must be cleaned up around tables within 24 hours. First offense give a warning, second offense give a ticket for trash.”

“To encourage parents to go speak to their neighbors instead of hiding behind ‘Hill parent emails’ and police phone calls. I have never had issues with neighbors because we have good relationships because they took the time to introduce themselves to the kids next door as people, not as ‘parents’.”

“As long as residents clean up the trash that the game generates within a reasonable time frame (~24 hours) I don't see a problem with table games. The tables belong to the residents and it's fine if they keep them in their yards on their property (same as yard furniture or decorations).”

“Those who have questions/concerns about those playing should go up and express them. I believe those playing would be happy to comply. This would decrease confusion and frustration.”

“Within a reasonable hour and with respect to your surrounding neighbors, I believe it is perfectly acceptable for beer games to be played in front lawns. Although I believe clean up should be the only necessary requirement for this to continue.”

“If you actually want to ‘improve’ the neighborhood experience I might suggest tackling real issues. How about the abundance of street lights that do not work, rendering the Hill to darkness at nights? Or how about the unsafe sidewalks in which I have personally injured myself on? Most of the alleys on the Hill are basically pothole obstacle courses and I can barely drive on them without risking damage to my car. Or even put some crosswalks across University Ave... The tables are not the problem, and it is apparent that officials are more concerned with curtailing drinking habits of students rather than actually putting time/money/effort into making Boulder a SAFER place to live.”

“One interesting idea is to propose a zoning law allowing areas where you can play the table games in public (on your front lawn) and some areas where you could not. That way the historic family residential neighborhoods on the ‘Hill’ could be preserved while still allowing areas, predominantly inhabited by college students, to play the beer games. I think this would be a great compromise.”

“Specifically 'beer pong' is not the issue for us. More important are the loud party gatherings, late-night shouting students and most recently, skateboard structures. I agree that all symptoms of irresponsible student renters contribute significantly to the decline of the Univ Hill neighborhood.”

## **NEXT STEPS**

Based on the survey feedback, several partner groups have agreed to participate in a collaborative “good neighbor” campaign for students and other residents on University Hill who play beer pong and other table games in front yards. City of Boulder Neighborhood Services, University of Colorado (CU) Off Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations, landlords and property management companies, police, code enforcement and CU student government will partner in this campaign.

Neighborhood Services, Off Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations and a representative of the Tri-Execs from student government met to discuss the survey results on Aug. 1, 2016. Follow up will continue to evolve throughout the fall and spring season, based on issues and student response. Specifically, the university has agreed to make a request that residents remove tables from front yards after use and encourage them to clean up trash associated with the tables or other events in materials already in use by the University of Colorado for the “Together We Make it Home” marketing.

Information from this survey will also be shared with staff groups currently examining the Residential Service District and its future. The Boulder Rental Housing Association has agreed to send letters to all of its members, identifying the issues outlined in the survey and requesting landlords to assist in spreading this message. Data will be shared with police and code enforcement for consideration in plans for fall enforcement, and materials will be created so that officers can provide good neighbor tips at the same time that citations are written for noise or accumulation of trash.